

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-8, 16, 17, 19 and 21-24 are now pending in the application.

Claims 1, 16, 17, 19, 21 and 22 are independent. Claims 2, 3 and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 4, 16, 17, 19 and 21 have been amended and Claims 22-24 are newly presented herein.

Initially, Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 29, 2005, and indicate such consideration by initialing and returning a copy of the Form PTO-1449 provided therewith.

Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Applicant has cancelled Claims 2 and 3. The various recitations in Claims 1 and 4 are believed to be consistent with one another. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection are also requested.

Claims 1-4 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,494,559 (Tsuji). Claims 1-8, 16-19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,318,828 (Barbour et al.) in view of Tsuji. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With the arrangements recited in the independent claims, the control means or control unit can be arranged on a carriage or head mounting means (Claims 1, 17 and 19), on or in an element base (Claims 16 and 21), or on or in a printhead (Claim 22). The control means or unit can obtain an address of storage means based on a received command. In order to access the storage means arranged on a printhead, an apparatus having a carriage for mounting the printhead need not designate an address of the storage means. By way of example, and without limiting the claims, the apparatus can access the storage means by using a memory read instruction as shown in Figure 16, which does not include an accessing address. Accordingly, even if storage addresses are changed by a design change of a printhead, a controller arranged on the apparatus (e.g., printing or liquid discharge apparatus) is not affected. Support for such feature can be found in the specification with regard to the discussion of steps S102 to S105 in Figure 5.

Tsuji relates to an ink jet recorder having a carriage on which an ink cartridge having a non-volatile memory is mounted. The carriage has a memory access controlling portion for controlling access to the memory. In particular, memory access controlling portion 3 provided on the carriage obtains a command from the apparatus and acquires information from memories 4 and 5, as shown in Figure 1. However, Applicant submits that in Tsuji the command from the apparatus includes an access address as shown in Figure 8(B) and discussed at column 11, lines 48 and 49. Tsuji does not disclose or suggest at least receiving a generated command, obtaining an address of storage means based on the received command and outputting an access signal based on the address, and acquiring, from the storage means, information corresponding to the access signal, as is recited in independent Claims 1, 16, 17, 20, 21 and 22.

Thus, Tsuji fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Barbour et al. is directed to a printing system and method including a data processor 124 that can communicate with a controller 110 and control head driver 126. Applicant submits that in Barbour et al., the head assembly mounted on the carriage receives a command and accesses memory 122. However, as discussed at column 22, lines 21 to 52, serial shift 2110 latches the address included in the serial information over the CSDAT line 2102, and the latched address is sent to the register controller 2115. That is, in Barbour et al. the command from the apparatus includes an access address. Barbour et al. also fails to disclose or suggest the features of the independent claims noted above as being deficient in Tsuji.

Thus, Barbour et al. also fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 16, 17, 19, 21 and 22 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 16, 17, 19, 21 and 22. Dependent Claims 4-8, 23 and 24 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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